

## Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 OIC-02

/071 W

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R 101440Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8285

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, XZ, FI

SUBJECT: SCANDINAVIAN WORKERS LIKELY TO BACK

NORWEGIAN SUNDE FOR SECOND TERM ON GOVERN-  
ING BODY

REF: (A) HELSINKI 644 (1974) (B) STATE 81955 (1974)

1. FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA INDICATED TO EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE ON FEB 10 THAT SCANDINAVIAN WORKER REPRESENTATIVES LIKELY TO BACK NORWAY'S OLAF SUNDE FOR SECOND TERM IN TRADITIONAL "SCANDINAVIAN" SEAT AT ILO GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS NEXT JUNE. SUBJECT CAME UP IN WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION IN WHICH TAPIOLA SAID THAT SUNCE WOULD PROBABLY BE RE-ELECTED, DESPITE SOME DISSATISFACTION IN SCANDINAVIAN CIRCLES WITH HIS LINGUISTIC ABILITY ("WE CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HIS NORWEGIAN").

2. TAPIOLA NOTED THAT SUNDE'S PREDECESSOR, BOLIN  
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OF SWEDEN, HAD SERVED TWO TERMS AND THAT HIS PREDECESSOR,

A DANE, HAD SERVED THREE CONSECUTIVE TURNS. THE FINNS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AMONG SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES BE OBSERVED -- AND THAT THEY BE INCLUDED. THE FINNS FEEL THEY ARE ENTITLED TO THE NEXT TURN BUT DO NOT HAVE A SUITABLE CANDIDATE AVAILABLE. SINCE SAK SOCIAL SECRETARY MATTI SAVOLA IS NOT INTERESTED, TAPIOLA HIMSELF IS THE ONLY LOGICAL CHOICE. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO LACK SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, AND ADDED THAT HE MIGHT BE THOUGHT TOO YOUNG. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE SHOWS NO DESIRE TO LEAVE THE SAK AT MOMENT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER TAPIOLA'S COMMITMENT TO FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS A LONG-TERM ONE).

3. TAPIOLA DID MENTION THAT THERE WAS DANISH INTEREST IN SUCCEEDING SUNDE BUT IMPLIED THAT FINNS WOULD PREFER TO SEE SUNDE RE-ELECTED IN 1975 TO PRESERVE FINNISH OPTION FOR A POSSIBLE CANDIDACY IN 1978.  
KREHBIEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HELSIN00280  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750048-0340  
**From:** HELSINKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 HELSINKI 644, 75 (197STATE, 75 81955, 75 (197  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SCANDINAVIAN WORKERS LIKELY TO BACK NORWEGIAN SUNDE FOR SECOND TERM ON GOVERN-  
**TAGS:** ELAB, XZ, FI, ILO, (SUNDE, OLAF)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006